

SHAGBARK HICKORY

Carya ovata (Mill.) K. Koch

Shagbark hickory occurs naturally or in cultivation statewide except in the north and downeast. It is most commonly found in southern Maine on moist, but well-drained soil. It has a cylindrical head and a straight, gradually tapering trunk. It reaches a height of 70 feet and a diameter of two feet.

The **bark** is light gray on the trunk and separates into long, loose plates, giving it a shaggy appearance.

The **leaves** are compound, alternate, 8 - 14 inches long; leaflets most often 5 in number, rarely 7, with the 3 terminal leaflets being the largest. Leaflet margins are serrate.



The **fruit** has the thick outer husk deeply grooved at the seams. The husk separates along these grooves when ripe. The fruit is globose and is borne singly or in pairs. The kernel is sweet. The **twigs** are hairy or smooth and olive gray to dark red-brown in color. Pith is star-shaped in cross section. Bud scales are hairy.

The **wood** is very strong, close-grained, heavy, hard, tough and flexible. It was formerly used in the manufacture of agricultural implements, for making carriages and wagons, especially the spokes and rims of the wheels, and for axe and tool handles. Its principal use now is for pallets.

BITTERNUT HICKORY

Carya cordiformis (Wangenh.) K. Koch

Bitternut hickory is found in the extreme southwestern corner of the state.